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Legislative History of the Reauthorization of the  
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) (1990)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts and  
Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996)

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1992

# Legislative History of the Reauthorization of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) (1990): Report 11

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H.R. 2694, to amend title II, District of Columbia Code, to remove gender-specific references (H. Rept. 102-704);

H.R. 5622, to authorize an additional Federal contribution to the District of Columbia for fiscal year 1993 for youth and anticrime initiatives in the District of Columbia (H. Rept. 102-705);

H.R. 5623, to waive the period of congressional review for certain District of Columbia acts (H. Rept. 102-706);

H. Res. 527, providing for the consideration of H.R. 5620, making supplemental appropriations, transfers, and rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1992 (H. Rept. 102-707);

H.R. 5677, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1993 (H. Rept. 102-708);

H.R. 5678, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1993 (H. Rept. 102-709);

H.R. 5679, making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1993 (H. Rept. 102-710); and

H.R. 918, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, amended (H. Rept. 102-711, Part I).

Pages H6581-82

**Interior Appropriations:** By a recorded vote of 329 ayes to 94 noes, Roll No. 306, the House passed H.R. 5503, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1993.

Pages H6453-73, H6474

#### Agreed To:

The Dicks amendment that earmarks \$2 million for the design and the initiation of construction of a pedestrian walkway and interpretative park in cooperation with the city of Tacoma, Washington;

Page H6453

The Atkins amendment that prohibits use of funds made available in this act to record or process any claimed rights-of-way under section 2477 of the Revised Statutes;

Page H6455

The Jontz amendment, as amended by the Dicks amendments (agreed to by a recorded vote of 212 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 302), that reduces the appropriation for the National Forest System by approximately \$8 million;

Pages H6457-63

✓ The Stearns amendment that reduces the appropriation for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$3 million (agreed to by a recorded vote of 251 ayes to 171 noes, Roll No. 304).

Pages H6467-69

#### Rejected:

The Thomas of Wyoming amendment that sought to strike language that deducts \$155,275,000 from Federal onshore mineral leasing receipts prior to the division and distribution of such receipts between the States and the Treasury;

Pages H6453-55

The Duncan amendment that sought to reduce the appropriation for the Bureau of Indian Affairs by \$34,009,000 (rejected by a recorded vote of 135 ayes to 266 noes, Roll No. 301);

Pages H6455-57

The Walker amendment that sought to strike \$25,805,000 for fossil energy research and development (rejected by a recorded vote of 158 ayes to 262 noes, Roll No. 303);

Pages H6464-66

The Burton amendment, as modified, that sought to reduce by 1 percent each amount appropriated in the bill that is not required to be appropriated or made available by a provision of law (rejected by a recorded vote of 197 ayes to 218 noes, Roll No. 305);

Pages H6469-71

The Young of Alaska amendment was offered but subsequently withdrawn that sought to reduce the National Park Service construction budget by \$5,558,000.

Page H6463

The Clerk was authorized to make technical and conforming changes in the bill.

Page H6474

**Privilege of the House:** H. Res. 525 was offered, but subsequently withdrawn, relating to the privileges of the House.

Pages H6475-78

**Privilege of the House—Public Disclosure:** By a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 307, the House agreed to the Kleczka motion to table H. Res. 526, relating to the privileges of the House.

Pages H6479-87

**Cable Competitiveness:** By a yea-and-nay vote of 340 yeas to 73 nays, Roll No. 313, the House passed H.R. 4850, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide increased consumer protection and to promote increased competition in the cable television and related markets.

Pages H6497-H6544, H6544-71

## AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. STEARNS

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. STEARNS: Page 85, strike lines 3 through 28 and insert the following:

## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

## GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, \$145,839,000 shall be available to the National Endowment for the Arts for the support of projects and productions in the arts through assistance to groups and individuals pursuant to section 5(c) of the Act, and for administering the functions of the Act.

## MATCHING GRANTS

To carry out the provisions of section 10(a)(2) of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, \$30,116,000, to remain available until September 30, 1994, to the National Endowment for the Arts, of which \$13,300,000 shall be available for purposes of section 5(1): *Provided*, That this appropriation shall be available for obligation only in such amounts as may be equal to the total amounts of gifts, bequests, and devices of money, and other property accepted by the Chairman or by grantees of the Endowment under the provisions of section 10(a)(2), subsections 11(a)(2)(A) and 11(a)(3)(A) during the current and preceding fiscal years for which equal amounts have not previously been appropriated.

Mr. STEARNS (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. OBERSTAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to reduce the funding level for the National Endowment for the Arts to the fiscal year 1992 level. The committee has provided an increase of almost \$3 million to the NEA. With our deficit skyrocketing and with so many critical Federal programs taking tough budget cuts, I do not believe we can justify such an increase.

In the past several weeks we have cut housing and facilities for our Armed Forces, we have eliminated funding for the superconducting super collider, we have cut our legislative budgets—we yet we are going to increase funding for the NEA?

As Representatives of the people, we have to explain our spending practices to our constituents. They will ask why the NEA received more funding than breast cancer research last year. They will ask why we are increasing its funding by almost \$3 million during a severe budget crisis. I don't know how to explain such inequity and lack of priorities to my constituent in central Florida.

This body has just defeated an amendment from the gentleman from Illinois that would have cut all funding for the NEA. I supported that amendment, but believe some very good points were made by the other side.

My amendment will not dismantle the NEA—it will not cripple it. What this amendment will do is keep spending at last year's funding level which was a generous \$176 million. Frankly, I think that is too much, however, the majority of my colleagues have voted otherwise.

What my amendment does is provide a compromise. It provides the opportunity for both supporters and opponents of the NEA to vote for fiscal responsibility without devastating the organization.

Both the National Taxpayers Union and Citizens Against Government Waste have expressed their strong support for this amendment. They think it is the least we can do given the enormity of our deficit.

When American businesses and families are cutting back across America, it is the duty of Congress to cut back as well. Our deficit is almost \$400 billion. We have to ask ourselves "Is an increase of almost \$3 million to the NEA absolutely necessary?"

Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleagues for their consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Is there a Member in opposition?

Mr. YATES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Montana [Mr. WILLIAMS].

□ 1150

Mr. WILLIAMS. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the gentleman from Florida, we have to explain our funding priorities, so let me explain what will likely be cut by this amendment.

When we authorized, in a tumultuous session, the National Endowment for the Arts in the previous Congress, this House asked for two significant changes: First, arts education, and second, an earmarking of 35 percent of the money for the coming year for the States. That is, each State arts council would decide how that arts money is to be spent.

If this \$3 million cut goes forward, the way it will trickle out is that your States, which now believe they are going to receive \$9 million in additional money, are going to be out. Your States' arts councils are going to be out if this amendment comes forward.

The other place that I anticipate this cut will come is in arts education. The way it works, the way Members voted for it to work 2 years ago, is every other dollar above \$175 million is earmarked for arts education in the schools in your districts. If this cut goes ahead, it is likely that \$1.5 million could be cut from arts education.

So do not let anybody tell you that this cut somehow has to do with all of

that controversy that went on 2 years ago. This cut has to do with money for your State arts councils and arts education that goes on your schools.

I could list, if time permitted, all of the arts education that has done wonderful things for kindergarten, first, second, third grade, junior high school students in each of your States. We are about to cut if this passes, at least in my judgment, \$1.5 million out of arts education for kindergarten kids, first-grade kids.

This is not money that goes directly to artists. This is money that your school children enjoy in your States.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY].

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, let me pay my respects to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS] for bringing this amendment forward, and let me pay my respects to the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES], a person with whom we have contested over this issue for many years, and with whom the contest has always been very, very enjoyable. But the previous speaker, the gentleman from Montana [Mr. WILLIAMS] basically gave us a false predicate.

The predicate is that our education for our Nation's youngsters will be somehow diminished if we do not have this additional funding for the NEA. This has been a fundamental problem with the whole question of the NEA throughout all of the controversy we have ever had.

It is an affront to the esthetic tastes and the esthetic preferences and the esthetic pursuits that come natural to the people and to especially the children of this Nation for us to argue that there would not be such esthetic pursuit without this Federal funding. The fact is people love art, and they will pursue art, and they will most likely do it more enthusiastically, with less confusion if they are left to do it on their own, and if we do not have a Federal agency of the U.S. Government determining for the people of this country what is and what is not preferred artistic pursuit for those people.

This agency's existence is an affront to the concept of freedom of expression in the arts. This is a Federal agency that exists for the purpose of determining what is or is not art to be pursued by the American people.

Let me just say finally the gentleman from Florida's focus is more correct. His point is in this Nation of \$400 billion deficits where we have to make so many difficult cuts, can we afford to increase spending on what is needed least and what is desired even less, an unnecessary intrusive agency of the Federal Government?

Mr. YATES. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to tell the very distinguished Republican, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMY] what another distinguished Republican thinks about the NEA. I am referring to Mr. Winton Blount, the former Postmaster General from Alabama. Listen to his words in testimony during our hearings:

An NEA investment of \$36,000 in the Alabama Shakespeare Festival this year is helping create new southern artistry, provide professional theater for hundreds of thousands, generate \$16 million in tourism and educate 50,000 students. Where else do so few Federal dollars have such a large multiplier effect and enormous ultimate value? Any businessman would be happy with a fraction of such returns on their investments. I therefore trust that you will continue to invest precious Federal resources where such a high and valuable return is achieved.

That is from Postmaster Winton Blount.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds to say that giving in the United States of America by private funding of the arts has reached \$7.89 billion last year. This is just a pittance.

We will still have art education. Neither Mark Twain nor Ernest Hemingway received funding from the Government. Many of our greatest artists have contributed to the cultural development of our society without the support of Federal funds.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to my colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN].

Mr. DORNAN of California. Mr. Chairman, just very quickly, we are going into debt, this House is putting the Nation into debt \$1,993,000,000 today, tomorrow, Sunday, every religious holiday right through this fiscal year. We just cannot afford not to cut something out of this.

I rise in support of the Stearns amendment. Madonna signed a contract for \$60 million, Mike Jackson for another \$60 million. That is more than two-thirds of this budget. These people are not going to pay storage on their money. Let the artists making these incredible, astronomical incomes, let them help and pick up a little slack. We cannot afford it.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KOSTMAYER].

Mr. KOSTMAYER. Mr. Chairman, 30 years ago John Kennedy said that one of the ways in which we measure the strength of our society is not only by measuring the strength of our military, but by measuring our commitment to the arts, to dance, to literature, to sculpture, to poetry, to painting, to music. By that measurement, this country does not have a very deep commitment to the arts. This amount the gentleman from Florida seeks to cut is about 7 hours of Pentagon spending. This is one of the finest programs in the Federal Government. It sustains some of the very best impulses of people, young people especially, all across the country. We ought

to be doing more to promote this program, to promote the concerns of people who care about literature, dance, painting, sculpture, poetry, and all the arts.

This is a modest commitment to sustain such programs in small towns, big cities, and schools across the country. Surely the Congress can sustain and support the arts. I urge rejection of the amendment.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out to my colleagues, the highest rated public broadcasting show was the Fourth of July concert on the Mall, and hundreds of thousands of people were there. It was a great program, and it was funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In conclusion, I merely want to reiterate what the distinguished gentleman from Montana [Mr. WILLIAMS] pointed out, and he should know what he is talking about because he wrote the authorizing legislation for the National Endowment for the Arts. As he pointed out, any amount of money made available above \$175 million goes for two purposes. First, it goes for arts education for our children in this country, which is important at this time when so many of the local schools are cutting back on their arts and music programs. Second, the balance of the funding will go to sustain the programs of the arts commissions in the States.

So I hope that the Stearns amendment is voted down.

Mr. WEISS. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my opposition to the Stearns amendment. This amendment does not signal fiscal prudence but an attempt to straddle an agency that is given the mission of funding every type of artistic group throughout the Nation and promoting American creativity and culture.

The NEA's work in promoting the arts is not frivolous. The arts form the fiber of our national identity and soul. On a purely pragmatic level, they are also our greatest export, an important means to local economic development, and one of the greatest educational tools for our children.

NEA funds comprise one one-hundredth of 1 percent of the current budget. For this tiny sum, the NEA funds generate 10 times that amount in private funds. For instance, for fiscal year 1991, NEA Program grants totaling \$140 million generated \$1.13 billion in non-Federal funds. These funds are enormously catalytic. More so, they play a real and vital role in community vitalization and, thanks to the ingenuity of NEA initiatives and the committed work of those in the arts, they affect at-risk students, the elderly, the physically challenged, and every aspect of the community.

The argument is made that we cannot afford the arts in these times. I would assert that the arts are more important than ever. At a time of racial and class division in our cities, the arts are one of the most effective ways of achieving greater understanding.

The \$3 million which Mr. STEARNS seeks to cut is an increase that will, on the whole, go to arts in education programs. Is that the gen-

tleman's intent, to do away with a small increase for funds for arts programs for our children?

If that is not the intent, then this amendment is a false gesture, one which will affect the quality of life of our citizens and hamper an agency given the task of reaching arts organization in every corner of this country and developing and preserving our national culture.

I urge the defeat of the Stearns amendment.

□ 1200

The CHAIRMAN. All time has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS].

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

#### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 251, noes 171, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 304]

#### AYES—251

Allard	Edwards (OK)	Laughlin
Allen	Edwards (TX)	Lehman (CA)
Andrews (TX)	Emerson	Leat
Applegate	English	Lewis (CA)
Archer	Erdrich	Lewis (FL)
Armey	Evans	Lightfoot
Aspin	Fawell	Lipinski
Bacchus	Fields	Livingston
Baker	Fish	Lloyd
Balenger	Franks (CT)	Long
Barnard	Frost	Lujan
Barrett	Gallagher	Manton
Barton	Gallo	Marlane
Bateman	Gekas	Martin
Bennett	Geras	Martinez
Bentley	Gibbons	McConnors
Bereuter	Gilchrist	McCloskey
Bevill	Gifford	McCollum
Bilbray	Gingrich	McCreary
Bilirakis	Glickman	McCurdy
Billey	Goodling	McDade
Boehner	Gordon	McEwen
Borah	Goss	McGrath
Brewster	Gradison	McMillan (NC)
Broomfield	Grandy	McMillan (MD)
Browder	Gunderson	Mayers
Bruce	Hall (TX)	Michel
Bunning	Hamilton	Miller (OH)
Burton	Hammerschmidt	Miller (WA)
Byron	Hancock	Molinar
Callahan	Harris	Montgomery
Camp	Hastert	Moorhead
Campbell (CA)	Hayes (LA)	Morrison
Carper	Hefley	Murphy
Chandler	Hefner	Myers
Chapman	Henry	Neal (NC)
Clement	Herger	Nichols
Clinger	Hobson	Nuzale
Coble	Holloway	Ortiz
Coleman (MO)	Hopkins	Orton
Combest	Horn	Owens (UT)
Condit	Hubbard	Quley
Cooper	Huckaby	Packard
Costello	Hughes	Parker
Cox (CA)	Hunter	Patterson
Cramer	Butte	Paxon
Crane	Inhofe	Payne (VA)
Cunningham	Ireland	Penny
Danaher	Jacobs	Petri
Darden	James	Pickett
Davis	Jenkins	Porter
DeLay	Johnson (CT)	Poshard
Derrick	Johnson (TX)	Price
Dickinson	Johnston	Purcell
Dooley	Kasich	Quillen
Doehittle	Klay	Ramstad
Dorgan (ND)	Kolbe	Ravens
Dornan (CA)	Kyl	Reed
Driscoll	Lagomarsino	Regula
Duncan	Lamar	Rhodes
Eckart	Lamar	Ridge

Riggs  
Rinaldo  
Ritter  
Roberts  
Roemer  
Rogers  
Rohrabacher  
Roe-Lehtinen  
Rostenkowski  
Roth  
Roukema  
Rowland  
Santerum  
Sargallus  
Saxton  
Schaefer  
Schiff  
Schulze  
Sensenbrenner  
Sharp  
Shaw  
Shays  
Shuster

Slatsky  
Skeon  
Skelton  
Slattery  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (OR)  
Smith (TX)  
Snowe  
Solomon  
Spence  
Spratt  
Staggers  
Stallings  
Stearns  
Stanholm  
Stump  
Sundquist  
Sweet  
Tanner  
Tausin  
Taylor (MS)  
Taylor (NO)  
Thomas (CA)

Thomas (WY)  
Thornton  
Torricelli  
Upton  
Valentine  
Vander Jagt  
Volkmmer  
Vucanovich  
Walker  
Walsh  
Weber  
Weldon  
Whitten  
Wilson  
Wise  
Wolf  
Wyllie  
Yatron  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)  
Zelliff  
Zimmer

## NOES—171

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Alexander  
Anderson  
Andrews (ME)  
Andrews (NJ)  
Anthony  
Atkins  
AuCoin  
Bellenson  
Berman  
Blackwell  
Boehlert  
Bonior  
Boucher  
Boxer  
Brooks  
Brown  
Bryant  
Bustamante  
Campbell (CO)  
Cardin  
Carr  
Clay  
Coleman (TX)  
Collins (IL)  
Collins (MI)  
Conyers  
Cox (IL)  
Coyne  
de la Garza  
DeFazio  
DeLauro  
Dellums  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Dixon  
Donnelly  
Downey  
Durbin  
Dwyer  
Dymally  
Early  
Edwards (CA)  
Engel  
Espy  
Evans  
Fascell  
Fazio  
Flake  
Foglietta  
Ford (MI)  
Ford (TN)  
Frank (MA)  
Gaydos  
Gejdenson  
Gephardt

Gilman  
Gonzales  
Green  
Guarini  
Hall (OH)  
Hayes (IL)  
Hertel  
Hoagland  
Hochbrueckner  
Horton  
Houghton  
Hoyer  
Jefferson  
Johnson (SD)  
Jones (GA)  
Jones (NC)  
Jontz  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kennedy  
Kennelly  
Kildee  
Kleczka  
Koltz  
Kostmayer  
LaFalce  
Lantos  
Leach  
Lehman (FL)  
Levin (MI)  
Levine (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lowery (CA)  
Lowey (NY)  
Machley  
Markley  
Matsui  
Mavroules  
Maxwell  
McDermott  
McHugh  
McNulty  
Mfume  
Miller (CA)  
Mineta  
Mink  
Moakley  
Mollohan  
Moody  
Moran  
Morella  
Mrasek  
Murtha  
Nagle  
Nataher  
Neal (MA)  
Nowak

Oaker  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Olin  
Oliver  
Owens (NY)  
Pallone  
Pansetta  
Pastor  
Payne (NJ)  
Pease  
Pelosi  
Perkins  
Peterson (MN)  
Pickle  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Richardson  
Roe  
Rose  
Roybal  
Russo  
Sabo  
Sanders  
Santagmeister  
Savage  
Sawyer  
Scheuer  
Schroeder  
Schumer  
Serrano  
Sikorski  
Skaggs  
Slaughter  
Smith (FL)  
Smith (IA)  
Solari  
Stark  
Stokes  
Studds  
Swift  
Synar  
Torres  
Towns  
Traffant  
Unsoeld  
Vento  
Visclosky  
Washington  
Waters  
Waxman  
Weiss  
Wheat  
Williams  
Wolpe  
Wyden  
Yates

## NOT VOTING—12

Annunzio  
Coughlin  
Feighan  
Hansen

Hatcher  
Hyde  
Kopetski  
Peterson (FL)

Ray  
Tallon  
Thomas (GA)  
Troxler

□ 1218

Mr. VENTO changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

Mrs. LLOYD, and Messrs. ANDREWS of Texas, YOUNG of Alaska, OWENS of Utah, BEVILL, WISE, and HEFNER changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

## AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BURTON OF INDIANA

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. BURTON of Indiana: Page 97, after line 3, insert the following new section:

SEC. 318. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 1.46 percent.

□ 1220

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the previous speaker for getting an amendment passed that reduced spending to last year's level. It was not that hard, I think, for us to vote for that spending cut, to live within the budget that we passed last year, the spending limits of last year.

Every single appropriation bill that we have passed this year so far, in total, has been higher than last year. Agriculture is \$6.5 billion above last year; District of Columbia bill is \$58 million above last year; Treasury, Postal Service, \$2.9 billion above last year; and this bill is going to be close to \$185 million above last year.

Now, what my amendment does is cut the spending in this bill back to last year's spending levels, as the previous amendment did for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The reason I think this is important is because of the statistical information on the two charts I am going to show you. There is a book that I have been talking about called "The Coming Economic Earthquake," by a man named Burkett, that I have been asking all of the Members to read. If any of you want a copy of it, I have them in my office and I would be glad to give you a copy.

Mr. Chairman, in that book it shows a chart put out by the Federal Reserve Board showing the progression of the national debt. This was the national debt in 1980, we are at \$4.077 trillion in debt right now. This is where we are going to be conservatively, conservatively, by the year 2000, or 7.5 years from now.

Now, what this means simply is—take a good look at that, \$13.5 trillion—it means that the interest alone on the national debt is going to be \$1.2 trillion, which is almost the total cash revenues we are bringing into the Treasury today. Very simply, it means we are not going to bring in enough taxes just to pay the interest on the debt, let alone take care of Medicaid, Medicare, social security, and all of the other problems facing this country.

So we have to get control of our appetite for spending. A good place to start is to freeze spending at last year's spending levels. In addition to that, I

have said it before and I will say it again and again and again, we have to address the problem of entitlements. I know that is a dangerous thing to say, politically, but the fact of the matter is if we do not slow the growth in entitlements, the people on fixed incomes, on Social Security, welfare and so on, 7½ years from now will be paying \$25 or \$35 for a loaf of bread.

Now, why do I say that? I say that because the Federal Reserve Board has the right to monetize the debt. And if we cannot get enough tax revenues to pay the interest on the debt, they are going to have to pay off part of the debt, a large part of it, and they will monetize maybe \$8 trillion or \$8 trillion in debt.

When they print that much money, we are going to have hyperinflation and the people that we really want to help in this country, people on welfare, people fixed incomes, are going to be the hardest hit.

So we have to pinch a little bit now so we do not face hyperinflation later, which will cause economic chaos later in this country.

I will say it one more time: All I am asking for is a reduction in this bill to last year's spending levels, to try to get control of spending now and in the future so we will not face hyperinflation down the road.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to, for the record, point out that we have already cut \$59 million out of budget authority by the amendments which have been adopted. So, in effect, the gentleman's amendment would taken us below last year's level because we were at \$185 million over last year on the BA, with \$59 million we have cut on thus far by amendment action and in reality—I do not know if the gentleman would want to modify his amendment—but it does in fact take us \$59 million below last year's level.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I would be very happy, in accordance with my colleague, to modify my amendment to take it down to last year's spending level, and I would so move, Mr. Chairman.

the CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman ask unanimous consent to modify his amendment? And if so, he would modify his amendment in what way?

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Just to take it down to last year's levels, not below last year but to last year's spending level.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair would ask the gentleman to specify a change in the actual percentage level in the bill.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object, we would like to have specific numbers.